

United States under a trade agreement, or acts, policies, and practices of a foreign country that violate or are inconsistent with the provisions of, or otherwise deny benefits to the United States under, any trade agreement.

On October 4, 1996, having consulted with members of the relevant industries, the USTR determined that an investigation should be initiated to assess whether certain acts, policies and practices of Argentina regarding specific duties and non-tariff barriers affecting apparel, textiles and footwear are actionable under section 301(a). In 1995 and 1996, Argentina adopted specific duties on apparel, textiles, footwear and other items that are greater than Argentina's GATT 1994 tariff rate of 35 percent *ad valorem*.

In addition, Argentina imposes a statistical tax of 3 percent *ad valorem* on imports, which is not tied to the value of any services performed. Finally, Argentina imposes a labeling requirement on apparel, textiles, footwear and certain other items that may be an unnecessary obstacle to trade. Exporters of these products are required to complete an affidavit identifying product components, and each affidavit must receive an assigned identification number from the Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade that, in turn, must appear in the labels of covered merchandise.

The USTR believes that these acts, policies and practices are inconsistent with Articles II, VII, VIII and X of the GATT 1994; Article 2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade; Articles 1 through 8 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VII of the GATT 1994; and Article 7 of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing.

Investigation and Consultations

As required in section 303(a) of the Trade Act, the USTR has requested consultations with the Government of Argentina regarding the issues under investigation. The request was made pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), Article XXII:1 of the GATT 1994, Article 14 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 19 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VII of the GATT 1994, and Article 7 of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. If the consultations do not result in a satisfactory resolution of the matter, the USTR will request the establishment of a panel pursuant to Article 6 of the DSU.

Under section 304 of the Trade Act, the USTR must determine within 18 months after the date on which this investigation was initiated, or within 30

days after the conclusion of World Trade Organization dispute settlement procedures, whichever is earlier, whether any act, policy, or practice or denial of trade agreement rights described in section 301 of the Trade Act exists and, if that determination is affirmative, the USTR must determine what action, if any, to take under section 301 of the Trade Act.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the acts, policies and practices of Argentina which are the subject of this investigation, the amount of burden or restriction on U.S. commerce caused by these acts, policies and practices, and the determinations required under section 304 of the Trade Act. Comments must be filed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 15 CFR 2006.8(b) (55 FR 20593) and must be filed on or before noon on Wednesday, November 6, 1996. Comments must be in English and provided in twenty copies to: Sybia Harrison, Staff Assistant to the Section 301 Committee, Room 223, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20508.

Comments will be placed in a file (Docket 301-108) open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2006.13, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page on each of 20 copies, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The nonconfidential summary shall be placed in the file that is open to public inspection. An appointment to review the docket (Docket No. 301-108) may be made by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located in Room 101.

Irving A. Williamson,

Chairman, Section 301 Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Aviation Proceedings; Agreements Filed During the Week Ending 10/4/96

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days of date of filing.

Docket Number: OST-96-1832.

Date filed: October 1, 1996.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: COMP Telex Mail Vote 828, Suspend Currency Restriction in Brazil, Intended effective date: October 25, 1996.

Docket Number: OST-96-1833.

Date filed: October 1, 1996.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC12 NMS/ME 0004 dated September 13, 1996 r-11, PTC12 NMS/ME 0005 dated September 13, 1996 r12-24, North Atlantic-Middle East/Israel Resos, Correction—PTC12 NMS-ME 0006 dated Sept. 20, 1996, Tables—PTC12 NMS-ME Fares 0002 dated Sept. 20, 1996, Intended effective date: April 1, 1997.

Docket Number: OST-96-1834.

Date filed: October 1, 1996.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC12 NMS/ME 0002 dated September 13, 1996 r1-18, PTC12 NMS/ME 0003 dated September 13, 1996 r19-37, North Atlantic-Middle East/Israel Resos, Intended effective date: April 1, 1997.

Docket Number: OST-96-1838.

Date filed: October 3, 1996.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: TC31 Telex Mail Vote 829, Reso 012p-Glossary of Terms, Intended effective date: April 1, 1997.

Paulette V. Twine,

Chief, Documentary Services Division.

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Notice of Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits Filed Under Subpart Q During the Week Ending October 4, 1996

The following Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits were filed under Subpart Q of the Department of Transportation's Procedural Regulations (See 14 CFR 302.1701 et. seq.). The due date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to modify Scope are set forth